

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

<https://www.stguthlac-knighton.co.uk/>



Sunday 6 June 2021
First Sunday after Trinity

To encourage you *“And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.”* (1 John 4.16)

See yourself as God sees you. It is our identity as God’s beloved ones that gives a foundation of security. From this, we can start to do things that promote dignity and self-worth. God loves you and has given you a unique set of gifts and talents. When you recognise your abilities and trust your judgement – guided by God- you will become more confident and resilient.

(from ‘World of Difference’ by Tearfund, the UK Christian charity that works with developing communities around the world)

COMMUNION SERVICE & BOOKING SYSTEM

Sunday 6th June 10:30am

This Sunday 6th June at 10.30am, Revd Canon Dr Stephen Foster will lead a communion service.

In order to maintain social distancing, we have to limit the number of people who can attend each service; our current calculation is that we can seat a maximum of 21 individuals, small households or ‘bubbles’ safely at any one time. This is sadly very limiting. Consequently, we need to use a booking system.

If you would like to attend, please contact Tina to book a place.
churchwardens@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk

THE COMMUNION SERVICE

Before the service

- Please arrive by 10.25 to allow time to direct you to your seat.
- When you arrive, you may have to queue for a while - please maintain a distance of 2m from others.
- Please wear a face covering as you queue and all the time you are in the church - we have some extras for those who cannot obtain their own.
- You will be welcomed and asked to sanitise your hands.
- The steward will ask you to give or check your contact details. The Steward only will write these down. These details will only be shared in the unlikely event that anyone develops symptoms. This is to protect everyone.
- You will be directed to a seat. Please sit only in this place as we need to maintain distances and reduce movement.
- Please note there are no toilets available.

The service

- You will find a communion booklet or service sheet and a book (OCOFOL) with the day's readings and prayers on your chair.
- A member of the Benefice Team will lead the service.
- The choir is not able to lead us in worship and we can't sing any hymns.

The sharing of the bread or blessing

- Great care will be taken to protect the safety of the congregation. Only the priest will handle the elements and vessels, and then only after sanitising their hands. There will be no assistant. The wafers for the congregation will be covered while the priest consecrates them.

- After the priest takes his/her wine and priest's wafer, he/she will put on a mask and sanitise hands again. Only then will the small individual wafers be uncovered and given to the congregation. Only wafers will be offered, not wine. At the distribution, Holy Communion will be administered in silence.
- Please stay in your seats the celebrant will come out to you in turn.
- If you wish to receive the bread, please hold out your hands. The priest will 'drop' the wafer into the outstretched hands, taking care not to touch them.
- There is no obligation to take the bread. If you wish to receive a blessing, please hold up your service booklet. If you prefer to pray quietly and not to receive either please fold your arms.

After the service

- Leave your service sheet and book on your chair.
- Please keep your distance from others as you leave and do not linger in the building - sadly we can't offer refreshments.
- If you wish to leave a donation, please put it in the small box provided.
- You will be asked to sanitise your hands as you leave.

When we have all gone, the church building will remain unused for 72 hours to eliminate any virus.

If you should feel unwell with any of the symptoms of coronavirus in the two weeks following the service, as well as seeking medical advice, please leave a message with Adrian or Matthew.

Collect & Readings for the first Sunday after Trinity

The Collect

O God,
the strength of all those who put their trust in you,
mercifully accept our prayers
and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature
we can do no good thing without you,
grant us the help of your grace,
that in the keeping of your commandments
we may please you both in will and deed;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

First reading: Genesis 3.8-15

⁸They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' ¹⁰He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' ¹¹He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' ¹²The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' ¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.' ¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the

woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.'

Psalm 130

Second reading: 2 Corinthians 4.13 - 5.1

Gospel reading: Mark 3.20-35

²⁰The crowd came together again, so that Jesus and his companions could not even eat. ²¹When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, 'He has gone out of his mind.' ²²And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, 'He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.' ²³And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, 'How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. ²⁶And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. ²⁷But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

²⁸Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; ²⁹but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin' – ³⁰for they had said, 'He has an unclean spirit.'

³¹Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. ³²A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, 'Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.' ³³And he replied, 'Who are my mother and my brothers?' ³⁴And looking at those who sat around him, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers!'

³⁵Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.'

Reflection for 1st after Trinity (Proper 5) Mark 3:20 – 35

Fiona Wingate

“Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother”

Have you ever found yourself in a situation where you've said something in a group setting, and after you've said your say someone else steps in and says, “what Fiona actually meant was” Usually what I apparently meant is a greatly watered-down version of what I said or it bears very little if any resemblance to it at all. But in both cases the hearers' sensitivities are perceived as being addressed and I'm left thinking, “just ask me if the meaning is unclear” or “yes, the message is that is uncomfortable”.

There is a risk of the same thing happening in today's gospel. Rather than pretend to explain what Jesus may have meant by his slightly brutal saying, “who are my mother and brothers?” Let us look at what we are told and explore that because it can be those times when we look closely at these hard sayings we find something useful.

“Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother”

Our reading comes from the first four chapters of Mark's gospel which set the nature and character of Jesus ministry. We see Jesus as someone who teaches and heals. We also see him surrounded by his disciples, pulling large crowds and making

enemies of the authorities. We have all of that in our reading today.

The crowds have gathered again to hear and see Jesus. They're so many demanding Jesus' presence that he and his disciples can't even get something to eat. This is not a one off event it is relentless. The authorities (the scribes) have travelled from Jerusalem to hear or test him (or maybe to gather more evidence). All the usual actors are there.

But we also see Jesus' family arrive. They have travelled to see him out of concern. They've heard people saying that he is "out of his mind". No doubt the journey to see him is not an easy one from Nazereth to near the Sea of Galilee. When they arrive, they find themselves faced with a sea of people all crowding around Jesus. So they send a message to let Jesus know they are there and would like to see him. It all seems fairly reasonable.

But then Jesus turns and says "Who are my mother and brothers?" Imagine how Mary and James, and the rest of his brothers may have felt at that point. I reckon they'd be pretty miffed. After all they'd travel to see him. Not a simple thing in those times. They were worried about him and this is how they're treated.

But if we stay with the brothers and their "reasonable" anger we risk missing the gem of Jesus' teaching in this passage. The gem it offers is what Jesus tells the crowds, the disciples, the authorities and us that "Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.'

"Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother"

Do the will of God? Ok – so what is “the will of God”?

John 7:17 tells us that it’s a choice we have to make. No-one, not even God, forces us to do his will. The choice is to believe in Jesus, “the one whom He sent”. St Augustine when asked what does “if any man be willing to do his will?” mean answered clearly “It is the same thing as to believe”.

How is it that that is all it takes? Is it because God first believed in us? He showed us the way. He believed in, and loved, each one of us as people created by Him and in His own image. Because of this He sent His son, Jesus to live with us and die for us. In Jesus’ life and teaching we see what doing God’s will offers. It offers us the choice to be part of a loving relationship, even a loving family – brothers and sisters with Christ. Not simply by following rules and doing good deeds. But firstly, by believing in Jesus as the Son of God.

The result of this loving relationship is that we choose to following Jesus’ teachings. Our relationship with God together with our baptism by the Holy Spirit allow God’s transforming presence to work in our lives and change us; becoming the people we were created to be. Through God’s transforming power we may become more willing to speak out boldly when we see injustice like Jesus did. More able to tackle those difficult issues like Jesus did. More inspired to bring healing and reduce suffering like Jesus did.

“Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother”

Jesus’ words also point to the nature of family. To the question of “Who do we see as our brothers and sisters?” I’m conscious that not everyone will have a positive experience of families or

of relationships with brothers or sisters. What Jesus offers each of us here is a close, loving relationship with him as our brother and God as our father. But **that** is offered to those who chose to believe regardless of location, wealth or status. It means that we are in relationships with many around the world. We need to allow the love of God to open our eyes to the plight of many who suffer because of the choices our society has made.

In our lives we are probably willing to do good things for our families that perhaps we wouldn't do for a mere acquaintance. This family of God which we are a part of challenges us to act for the best interest of the whole. It does not promise to be easy. It will involve effort and even sacrifice. But it does mean we need to act. To speak up for the rights of our brothers and sisters around the world. To hold leaders accountable for their actions and policies that affect the poorest of our brothers and sisters.

It does mean we need to look closely at what we do to our world, our environment and our relationships.

Because as Nelson Mandela said, "As long as poverty, injustice and gross inequality persist in our world, none of us can truly rest."

Amen.

PRAYERS

Personal

Jesus says, 'Come with me to a quiet place and rest'. May we know both the quietness of such times in our lives and the rest so that God can meet with us and we hear the 'still small voice'.

Church and Community

We thank God for the beautiful weather enabling people to explore more beyond their own homes as life regains more normality. We remember those most vulnerable to the virus, those who are shielding, those who are isolated or have become disconnected in the pandemic. We pray that we may think of and love those who we may risk having forgotten about. We pray for our hearts to enlarge as our worlds have become more insular.

Weekly prayer for roads in the parish – **Grenfell Road**

Nation and World

We pray for the world leaders meeting in Cornwall this week for the G7. We pray for God to be with their decision making. We pray that this may be a time for meaningful engagement with truth and justice. We pray particularly for where leaders have power to change unjust systems which oppress the poor through trade, debt-finance and environment.

Those facing personal pain we name before our Lord

And those who have finished their days on this earth. We thank you for their lives and pray for their families and loved ones to be comforted.

For further prayer requests which can be included in the weekly prayer list or anonymized and prayed for in private, please contact Matthew revgough@gmail.com or Jane administrator@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk

PRIORITY NEWS: Shaped by God Together - I do hope that you've had the opportunity to read the article called 'Shaped by God Together' in the current benefice magazine. It gives information about the highly significant reorganisation of clergy and churches being proposed by the Diocese. We are all invited to take part in discussions at a local level before decisions are made by the Bishop's Council and Diocesan Synod later in the year. I'm pleased therefore to invite you to a Zoom discussion of the proposals on Wednesday 16th June at 7.30pm. Please just click on this link and follow any online instructions:

<https://leccofe.zoom.us/j/91688133221?pwd=T1ZZSGZaQjVKU0dLL3BGaE1EMXVSQT09>

Meeting ID: 916 8813 3221 Passcode: 300798 or join by telephone, dialling 0330 088 5830 (local charges)

There will also be a 'live' and in-person meeting on the afternoon of that same day - details available next week or by phoning the Vicarage 0116 270 4268.

Adrian

Post Lock down 'Teach in':

An Introduction to the Gospels

Revd Canon Dr Stephen Foster will be running a series of three lectures in July as an Introduction to the Gospels. Each session will be 50 minutes interaction/teaching, then 40 minutes tea/biscuits and further questions. The provisional titles are:

July 1st: 'What do YOU/WE know about the Gospels?'

*July 8th: 'What would YOU/WE call the Gospels?
History?...Story?...Theology?...?'*

July 15th: WE look at St Mark...the first Gospel to be written?

The sessions on 1st and 15th will be 2.30pm in St Guthlac's and then repeated at 7.30pm in St. Mary's. They will take place in the church to enable social distancing to take place if preferred.

The session on 8th July will be 2.30pm in St. Guthlac's only. Everyone is welcome to attend any/all of the sessions for an instructive and enjoyable get together.

STEWARDS NEEDED FOR SUNDAY SERVICES

Can you help to enable people to spend time in church? We need stewards each Sunday, to welcome and help people take their places in church in a safe and socially distanced way.

We aim to have two stewards each Sunday. It involves arriving before the service to open the church. Then to welcome people; check that they have booked; and to make sure they have masks and sanitise their hands. At the end of the service it is important to help people leave safely (and chat outside). Then lock the church.

Please contact David, if you can help.

WORSHIP INFORMATION

BBC Radio 4 Sunday Worship 8.10am

BBC Radio 4 Daily Service each weekday 9.45am on long wave only

Catch up available for all these on the BBC iPlayer and Sounds apps.

Virtual Sunday Service for the Knighton Benefice.

Each week we will now usually upload a recording of the Sunday service from St Mary's or St Guthlac's onto the Knighton Benefice You Tube channel. This should happen by 1pm each Sunday. Please go direct to

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChYDSfNmiB2Zamsaz_EdZSq? or via the website or Facebook page.

Online Compline Night Prayer from 8pm each Wednesday And Monday Midday Prayer

All Welcome. Same online joining details below for both:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://leccofe.zoom.us/j/7467674408?pwd=NHRQZ2F0Mmt5Wk5sd2NMc1JtREpaUT09>

Meeting ID: 746 767 4408

Passcode: hope

Or Phone In: 0131 460 1196 (standard call charge)

Input Meeting ID: 746 767 4408

St Mary's is open for services at 9am and 10.30am every Sunday. (Note new times) If you would like to attend a service please contact James in the Parish Office on 0116 2702705 to book a place.

LIVE STREAMING SERVICES

As we begin to re-open St Mary's and St Guthlac's buildings for worship, we would like to trial live streaming as some people have requested. To participate and watch the service live, you will need a Facebook account. We have a step by step guide for how to set up a Facebook account currently available on St Mary's Website under Corona Virus Support '**Social Media-staying connected**', or on request from Matthew. **A livestream will be broadcast on St Mary's Facebook page for the 10.30 service and will be available later on the website www.stmarysknighton.co.uk.** If successful, we hope to offer live streaming at St Guthlac's too. This will complement the in-person and pre-recorded services.

St Guthlac's services

- 6th June – Eucharist 10.30am
- 13th June – Morning Prayer 10.30am
- 20th June – Eucharist 10.30am
- 27th June – Morning Prayer/ Church Club 10.30am
- 4th July -- Eucharist 10.30am

PLANNED GIVING SCHEME

Regular giving is an integral part of our church life supporting our day to day costs, ministry and mission. A good way to achieve this is through a weekly envelope or a monthly bank standing order as part of our Planned Giving Scheme. Scheme details can be obtained from David Hunt. If you are a taxpayer and gift aid your giving, our church can claim an additional 25%.

During the current Coronavirus pandemic please put aside your weekly offerings ready to bring to church when things return to something like normal. The costs of the church are largely unchanged even though we cannot meet, so your regular giving is extremely important to our collective 'health' and the mission of God here.

STONEYGATE BAPTIST CHURCH WELLBEING CAFE

The Zoom link for the Stoneygate Baptist Church wellbeing cafe, which you are welcome to join any Wednesday at 11am is:

us02web.zoom.us/j/86350559902?pwd=TEwyOWxUZTE0bjhWZFA1Smplbk1YUT09

Meeting ID: 863 5055 9902

Passcode: 216265

CONTACT DETAILS

Vicar: Revd. Adrian Jones 0116 2704268
adrian.jones@zoho.com 07919 262 399

Associate Priest- St Guthlac's: Revd Canon Dr Stephen Foster

safpta6@gmail.com 07966 376905

Assistant Curate: Revd Matthew Gough
revgough@gmail.com 07754 961997

Revd Aphro McCullough

Revd Janet Gasper

Reader: Fiona Wingate

Churchwardens:

David Hunt

Tina Jarvis

churchwardens@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk

Knighton Benefice Magazine: Nigel Siesage
stmaryknighton.magazine@gmail.com

FOR THE NEWSLETTER Please send material to be included in the next newsletter by **noon Thursday** to administrator@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk

Don't forget to visit the St. Guthlac's Facebook page and website <https://www.stguthlac-knighton.co.uk>

Eco-Tip of the week



You can make an excellent, cheap, homemade, eco glass and tile cleaner!

Earlier generations had the knowhow to keep their homes sparkling clean without the use of commercial products and all those plastic bottles and sprays. This tried and tested cleaner gives excellent results and is best used in a spray bottle (keep an old commercial one and reuse). Glass bottles of white vinegar can be bought at most supermarkets.

Use half and half water and white distilled vinegar e.g. 1 cup of each.

Add a few drops of essential oil if you like (but the vinegary smell won't last long)

Spray lightly and polish off with an old flannel, or a microfiber cloth.



RSCM Music Sunday

Sunday 6th June

Did you know that we belong to the RSCM?

The RSCM invites everyone to join in online with the
Big Music Sunday Service
from Lichfield Cathedral at 6pm

Whether you want to participate in the singing or just listen, you will
find all the information you need at

<https://www.rscm.org.uk/music-sunday-2021/>